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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Shigeki MATSUNAGA : Mail Stop: PCT  
Serial No. 10/567,582 : Attorney Docket No. 2006\_0110A  
Filed February 8, 2006 :

PRINTING APPARATUS AND PRINTING  
METHOD

[Corresponding to PCT/JP2004/018062  
Filed December 3, 2004]

**SUBMISSION OF ENGLISH VERSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY AND WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

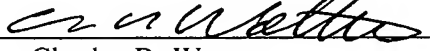
Submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner are:

- 1) An English version of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability; and
- 2) An English version of the Written Opinion of the International Searching

Authority.

Respectfully submitted,

Shigeki MATSUNAGA

By   
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August 23, 2006

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

**PCT**

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL  
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY  
(CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II  
OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY)  
(PCT Rules 44bis.3(c) and 72.2)

To:

NII, Hiromori  
c/o NII Patent Firm  
6F, Tanaka Ito Pia Shin-Osaka Bldg.  
3-10, Nishi Nakajima 5-chome  
Yodogawa-ku, Osaka-city  
Osaka 5320011  
JAPON

06.08.14

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Date of mailing (day/month/year)<br>03 August 2006 (03.08.2006) |   |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br>P36764-P0              | <b>IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION</b>   |
| International application No.<br>PCT/JP2004/018062              | International filing date (day/month/year)<br>03 December 2004 (03.12.2004) |
| Applicant<br>MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. et al     |   |

## 1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.



The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I).



The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

## 2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the designated or elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following designated or elected Offices requiring such translation:

None

The following designated or elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EA, EC, EE, EG, EP, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OA, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

## 3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned within the applicable time limit (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| The International Bureau of WIPO<br>34, chemin des Colombettes<br>1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland | Authorized officer<br><br>Masashi Honda |
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# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br>P36764-P0   | <b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>  | See item 4 below   |
| International application No.<br>PCT/JP2004/018062   | International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> )<br>03 December 2004 (03.12.2004) | Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> )<br>05 December 2003 (05.12.2003) |
| International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated)<br>See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237 |  |  |
| Applicant<br>MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.  |  |  |

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 *bis*.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- |                                     |              |   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I    | Basis of the report   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. II   | Priority  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. III  | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. IV   | Lack of unity of invention  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V    | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI   | Certain documents cited   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VII  | Certain defects in the international application  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application   |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

|   |   |
|---|---|
| The International Bureau of WIPO<br>34, chemin des Colombettes<br>1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland | Date of issuance of this report<br>24 July 2006 (24.07.2006)  |
| Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70  | Authorized officer<br><div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">Masashi Honda</div> e-mail: pt08@wipo.int |

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

TRANSLATION

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

## PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

**P36764-P0**

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

**PCT/JP2004/018062**

International filing date (day/month/year)

**03.12.2004**

Priority date (day/month/year)

**05.12.2003**

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

**MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.**

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☒ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/IP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/018062

Box No. 1 Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language  
\_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material  
☐ a sequence listing  
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material  
☐ in written format  
☐ in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing  
☐ contained in the international application as filed.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/018062

| Box No. V  | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis 1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |               |     |
|--|--|---------------|-----|
| <b>1. Statement</b>  |  |               |     |
| Novelty (N)  | Claims   | <u>1 - 15</u> | YES |
|  | Claims   | _____         | NO  |
| Inventive step (IS)  | Claims   | _____         | YES |
|  | Claims   | <u>1 - 15</u> | NO  |
| Industrial applicability (IA)  | Claims   | <u>1 - 15</u> | YES |
|  | Claims   | _____         | NO  |
| <b>2. Citations and explanations:</b>  |  |               |     |
| <p>Document 1: 2001-243026, A (Canon Inc.), 07 September, 2001 (07.09.01), full text, all drawings (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 2: JP, 9-251357, A (Canon Inc.), 22 September, 1997 (22.09.97), full text, all drawings, &amp; US, 6219152, B, &amp; EP, 784288, A, &amp; DE, 69620375, T</p> <p>Document 3: JP, 2000-99291, A (Canon Inc.), 07 April, 2000 (07.04.00), abstraction, all drawings (Family: none)</p> <p>Claims 1-15</p> <p>The subject matters of claims 1-15 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1 to 3 cited in the ISR.</p> <p>Document 1 and document 2 disclose a technique in which if there is a shortage of a storage area required in a printer, an external storage device is requested to secure a spool area as an auxiliary area, and if the spool area can be secured, spool processing is carried out in the external storage device to perform printing. Document 3 discloses dynamically changing a buffer area as a spool area between a printer and a device transferring print data to the printer, and requesting the external device to secure an area required for printing on the printer side is easy for a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>In this connection, determining a procedure for requesting security of an area, releasing and responding in securing a spool area is merely a matter of design variation.</p> |  |               |     |

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/018062

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 43bis.1 and 70.10)

| Application No.<br>Patent No. | Publication date<br>(day/month/year) | Filing date<br>(day/month/year) | Priority date (valid claim)<br>(day/month/year) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| JP 2004-213275 A [P, Y]       | 29.07.2004                           | 27.12.2002                      |   |

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 43bis.1 and 70.9)

| Kind of non-written disclosure | Date of non-written disclosure<br>(day/month/year) | Date of written disclosure<br>referring to non-written disclosure<br>(day/month/year) |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
|                                |  |   |